

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4601

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 1478

AF FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, XA, GV, US

SUBJECT: MOOSE EXCHANGE WITH TOURE ON AFRICAN ISSUE

REF: CONAKRY 1477

1. IN COURSE OF EXTENDED EXCHANGE BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AND PRESIDENT TOURE AUGUST 3, AND AT LUNCHEON THAT FOLLOWED, TOURE MADE A NUMBER OF OBSERVATIONS ON AFRICAN PROBLEMS:

A. HE SAID ECOWAS IS A FACTOR FOR PEACE AND COOPERATION IN WEST AFRICA AND IS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY GUINEA. ASSERTED THE US WORRIES TOO MUCH ABOUT COMMUNISM IN AFRICA AND PAYS TOO LITTLE ATTENTION TO ECONOMIC POLICIES AND DEVELOPMENT. REGARDING HIS RECONCILIATION WITH SENEGAL AND IVORY COAST, HE SAID THE PROBLEMS WITH THEM HAD BEEN INSPIRED BY FRANCE AND HAVE NOW VANISHED. THERE HAD BEEN SOME INITIAL RESISTANCE FROM SENEGAL, BUT HE HAS NOW DECIDED TO GO AHEAD AND HAS NAMED AN AMBASSADOR TO GUINEA: GUINEA'S AMBASSADOR TO SENEGAL WILL BE NAMED THIS WEEK.

B. ON NAMIBIA, TOURE SAID HE WAS FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE FIVE CONTACT STATES. HE REMAINS IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH SWAPO AND HAS TELEGRAPHS UNSYG WALDHEIM,
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OFFERING GUINEAN SOLDIERS FOR THE UN FORCE IN NAMIBIA, AND OFFERING SOME ENGLISH-SPEAKING OFFICIALS TO HELP WITH ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY.

C. ON RHODESIA, TOURE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT

(1) SMITH WILL NOT REALIZE HE IS FINISHED, WILL TRY TO PUT IN HIS OWN PEOPLE AND THERE WILL BE NO PEACE OR SOLUTION; AND

J2) WHEN SMITH IS GONE THERE WILL BE BLOODY CIVIL WAR.
TOURE SAID UNITY AMONG AFRICAN LIBERATION ELEMENTS WOULD
BE THE FIRST GREAT VICTORY.

D. SOUTH AFRICA, TOURE SAID, WOULD BE DEEPLY AFFECTED
BY SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE NAMIBIAN AND RHODESIAN
PROBLEMS, AND THIS COULD SET THE STAGE FOR FUNDAMENTAL
CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM AND ABOLITION OF APARTHEID, AFTER
WHICH SOUTH AFRICA WOULD BE WELCOME TO JOIN THE OAU.

E. TOURE OBSERVED THAT EVEN WISE MEN WILL NOT BE ABLE
TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF WESTERN SAHARA WITHOUT OUTSIDE
ASSISTANCE.

F. REGARDING CHAD, TOURE STRONGLY OPPOSED FRENCH
INTERVENTION, WHICH HAS BEEN CONDEMNED BY THE OAU. HE
ASSERTED THAT MAILLOUM IS IN POWER ILLEGALLY. HAVING
SEIZED IT BY FORCE. TOURE CONCEDED THAT THE LIBYANS
SUPPLY FROLINAT, BUT HE ASSERTED THEY HAVE NOT INTRODUCED
LIBYAN TROOPS OR OTHERWISE INTERVENED IN CHAD.

G. TOURE CONDEMNED AKUFFO'S COUP IN GHANA AND ESPECIALLY
HIS PLAN TO DELAY RETURN TO CIVILIAN RULE. TOURE SAID
THE GHANIAN WORKERS WILL EVENTUALLY ASSERT THEMSELVES.

H. TOURE EXPRESSED HIS CONDEMNATION OF COUPS IN GENERAL,
BEGINNING WITH THAT IN TOGO. HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED ABOUT
BENIN, HE CONSPICUOUSLY AVOIDED CONDEMNATION OF KEREKOU,
SIMPLY SAYING BENIN IS A COUNTRY WITH TOO FEW WORKERS
AND TOO MANY INTELLECTUALS. HE APPROVED THE PLANNED
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RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL RULE IN NIGERIA, MALI AND UPPER
VOLTA.

2. IN RESPONDING TO TOURE REGARDING GENERAL AFRICAN
PROBLEMS, MOOSE:

A. EMPHASIZED SIMILARITY OF GUINEAN AND US AFRICAN
POLICIES AND REVIEWED PRESIDENT CARTER'S COMMITMENT TO
AFRICAN UNITY, RACIAL JUSTICE, SOUTHERN AFRICAN INDE-
PENDENCE AND ABOLITION OF APARTHEID, RESPECT FOR AFRICAN
NATIONALISM AND ASPIRATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE OF AFRICA
FREE OF EAST-WEST STRUGGLE. HE SAID US WISHES TO SUPPORT
AFRICAN EFFORTS TOWARD PEACEFUL SOLUTIONS OF AFRICA
PROBLEMS: IMPORTATION OF ARMS AND THE INTERFERENCE OF
FOREIGN SOLDIERS WILL NOT HELP RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS.

B. EXPRESSED OPTIMISM RE NAMIBIAN SITUATION, SAYING
THE DOOR IS OPEN WE WILL CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS; HOPE-
FULLY, THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD CAN BE COMMENCED IN
SEPTEMBER.

C. WE WILL SIMILARLY CONTINUE EFFORTS TO GET A CONFERENCE
AMONG ALL PARTIES TO THE ZIMBABWE PROBLEM. WE SHARE
TOURE'S FEAR OF CIVIL WAR AND THAT SMITH WILL NOT UNDER-
STAND HE IS FINISHED. MOOSE POINTED OUT WE HAVE WORKED

CLOSELY WITH FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS AND SAID HE WAS PROUD OF THE DEGREE OF COOPERATION ACHIEVED WITH THEM. WE ARE SINCERELY COMMITTED TO LIBERATION, INDEPENDENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ZIMBABWE. THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN CRITICIZED FOR THE ATTENTION IT HAS PAID THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, BUT WE KNOW THAT IF ALL PARTIES ARE NOT BROUGHT INTO THE SOLUTION, THERE CAN BE NO PEACE IN ZIMBABWE, AND CIVIL WAR AND ENORMOUS TRAGEDY WILL RESULT. D. MOOSE EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT THE ZAMBIAN/ANGOLAN AGREEMENT, WHICH HE TERMED ONE OF THE MOST POSITIVE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE US HAD OPENED CONTACTS WITH ANGOLA AND WAS SEEKING TO ESTABLISH MORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH NETO. ON THE STRENGTH OF OUR TALKS WE ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE ANGOLAN POSITION
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REGARDING NAMIBIA AND RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE, AND WE BELIEVE ANGOLA WILL SOON BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON ITS OWN DOMESTIC PROBLEMS. E. MOOSE SUMMED UP WITH THE ASSURANCE THAT WE SHARE AFRICAN ASPIRATIONS REGARDING THE CONTINENT. HE EXPRESSED THE CONVICTION THAT AFTER THE DRAMA OF SOUTHERN AFRICA IS PLAYED OUT, AFRICA WILL BE ABLE TO TURN ITS FULL ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE SAID THE US DOES NOT HAVE A PAT SOLUTION FOR THESE PROBLEMS, BUT IT WANTS TO WORK WITH AFRICAN STATES AND HELP THEM WHEN IT CAN, IN A SPIRIT OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND COOPERATION.

3. COMMENT: THIS CONVERSATION UNDERSCORED THE EXTENT OF TOURE'S WIDE-RANGING INTEREST IN PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS, REINFORCING REPORTS WE HAVE HAD OF HIS SUBSTANTIAL ACTIVITY TO THAT END AT THE KHARTOUM OAU SUMMIT AND ELSEWHERE. IT SUGGESTS THE DESIRABILITY OF KEEPING HIM MORE CLOSELY INFORMED OF OUR VIEWS REGARDING AND EFFORTS TOWARD SOLUTION OF SUCH PROBLEMS IN ORDER TO GAIN HIS UNDERSTANDING AND PERHAPS SUPPORT OR COOPERATION. END COMMENT:.

CROSBY

SUBJECT TEL REISSUED DOWNGRADE PER MR. MCELHANEY

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